



Secretary of State Jason Kander
Election Review
February 27, 2015

Absentee Ballots – Taney County

Background

On January 27, 2015, the Secretary of State's Office was informed of potential voter fraud related to absentee ballots in Taney County during the 2010 election cycle. The Taney County Clerk confirmed that an individual requested an absentee ballot for the 2010 election cycle and that the individual's voter record showed this voter had already submitted an absentee ballot to the clerk's office for that election. The clerk's office issued a second absentee ballot to the individual, which he submitted back to the clerk's office. Using a bipartisan verification team, the voter's signature on record was compared to the two absentee ballot signatures. The absentee ballot signatures appeared to be the same as the voter's signature on record, so it appears that the voter attempted to vote twice. The verification team counted only one of the absentee ballots. The specific election date, the specific voter's record, which specific ballot was counted, and whether this was referred to the local prosecuting authority could not be confirmed by the local election authority.

Findings

Section 556.036, RSMo., of Missouri law establishes a three year statute of limitations for a felony (class one election offense). The statute of limitations had already passed when this issue was brought to the attention of the Secretary of State's office. Additionally, the process used by the bipartisan verification team correctly counted only one of the absentee ballots. Given the law, no further action can be taken.